

October 4, 1956

Marmorston

Dear Dr. Meader:

In response to your request, I am writing you about the work of Dr. Jessie Marmorston at the University of Southern California. I feel that the Cancer Institute should be interested in her work as she has shown, by careful assays of estrogen in post-menopausal women with myocardial infarctions, that these women show a deficit of estrogen compared with their sister controls of women of the same ages. The assay methods used by her are well known to other investigators and are sufficient to provide a test for the excretion of estrogen which shows striking differences between females who have myocardial infarctions as compared with those of the same age, who do not.

She has treated women with myocardials with estrogen and the death rate in the treated group of 81 is only 7% as compared with 30% in the untreated group of 82. These clinical trials will be reported on at the American Heart Association meeting in Cincinnati. The tests showing the estrogen deficit in women with myocardials as compared with their controls, was reported last year in the Mayo Clinic Bulletin.

Dr. Marmorston's group is doing not only estrogen assays but also fractions of estrogen and 17-Ketosteroid assays and other hormonal assays - and I believe that this group might make a very important contribution toward showing hormonal differences between women with breast cancer and normal controls. The steroid hormonal assays might easily provide better and more precise therapy for men and women with all forms of cancer to connect with sex hormone disturbances. In any case, this possibility should be energetically explored.

I hope that the representatives of the Cancer Council will be able to go to see this work at the University of Southern California.

With all best wishes.

Yours,

Dr. Ralph G. Meader
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Bethesda 14, Md.